Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method for causing selective proliferation of a blood cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a blood cell including a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or ~~a part thereof~~ a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said blood cell; and

(b) exposing said blood cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing

selective proliferation of said blood cell.

Claims 8-17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is selected from the group consisting of an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, and mineral corticoid receptor.

Claims 19-33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) A method for causing selective proliferation of a blood cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a blood cell comprising

(i) a desired exogenous gene; and

(ii) a gene encoding a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or ~~a part thereof~~ a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid

residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said blood cell; and

(b) exposing said blood cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said blood cell.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is selected from the group consisting of an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, and mineral corticoid receptor.

Claim 36. (Canceled)

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said desired exogenous gene and said gene encoding a chimeric protein are located on the same molecule.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said desired exogenous gene and said gene encoding a chimeric protein are located on separate molecules.

Claim 39. (Canceled)

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) A method for causing selective proliferation of a blood cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a blood cell including a vector that expresses a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or ~~a part thereof~~ a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor that, upon said self-

association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said blood cell; and

(b) exposing said blood cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said blood cell.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is selected from the group consisting of an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor or mineral corticoid receptor.

Claims 42-43. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) A method for causing selective proliferation of a blood cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a blood cell including a vector that independently expresses

(i) a first gene that encodes a desired exogenous gene product; and

(ii) a second gene that encodes a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor

that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine~~ granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor , or ~~a part thereof~~ a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said blood cell; and

(b) exposing said blood cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said blood cell.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is selected from the group consisting of an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, and mineral corticoid receptor.

Claims 46-47. (Canceled)